III.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

(1) MOTION UNDER RULE 23 (1) OF THE MADRAS COUNCIL RULES *re.* TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON A NON-OFFICIAL DAY.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, the 1st April, 1961'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

'That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, the 1st April, 1961'.

The motion was put and carried.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE LAND ACQUISITION (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961 (L.A. BILL NO. 11 OF 1961).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Hon. the Minister for Revenue will now move the Bill.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Revenue I move . . .

* DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I have a point of submission to make to the Chair? We are accustomed to empty benches opposite us and we have reconciled ourselves so far as Hon. Ministers may find important duties to perform when Bills which do not refer to them are considered by this House. Even in regard to questions we have reconciled ourselves to the position that some other Minister may answer on behalf of the Minister who should properly answer them. But, Sir, I should take very strong objection to the practice that is going on in this House in recent years, and I can speak with some knowledge because I have been here as an oldest member for the last fifteen years, that Ministers who are responsible for moving the Bills do not care to be present to move them. I consider this and I say that deliberately that it is in every way a discourtesy shown to this House. I cannot understand why, when the Council has been duly called and all Members are asked to be present irrespective of inconveniences, at least the Hon. Minister in charge of the Bill should not be present here to move the Bill. By that I do not mean to suggest that the Hon. the Leader of the House is not capable of moving it. In fact I am glad he is moving it. Let me tell him that frankly. But that is not the point. I raise this constitutional issue for your favourable consideration, Sir, that you, as the Chairman of this House, must insist on the Minister who is in charge of the Bill to be present in the House when it is moved so that he may follow the discussion and think about it because he has to frame the rules and he is also responsible for the rules